

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 219672 TOSEC 260043

LIMDIS FOR SECRETARY AND SCHAUFELLE

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUSAKA 2274 ACTION SECSTATE ZURICH MOSCOW
03 SEP 1976

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2274

LIMDIS

ZURICH FOR SCHAUFELLE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET AMB. CRITICIZES US/UK INITIATIVES IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. SPEAKING AT CEREMONY WHERE HE PRESENTED 3,000 BOOKS TO
THE GRZ CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AMB. SOLODVNIKOV ATTACKED US AND
UK INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ACCORDING TO SEPT. 3
TIMES OF ZAMBIA ACCOUNT, HE CHARACTERIZED THEIR INVOLVEMENT
AS "SINISTER". "I WANT TO SAY VERY HONESTLY, THAT WE DO
NOT BELIEVE IN THE INTENTIONS OF THE IMPERIALIST POWERS--
THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN--OF ELIMINATING THE SMITH CLIQUE
AND BRING ABOUT MAJORITY RULE. EQUALLY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE
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THAT THESE POWERS INTEND TO GIVE GENUINE INDEPENDENCE TO

THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA. IN FACT THEIR PLANS ARE AIMED AT PERPETUATING THE REGIMES OF SMITH AND VORSTER AND CRUSH THE UNITY OF AFRICA AND THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.... CONTRARY TO SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES WHICH TALK PLENTY ABOUT RESPECT TO FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY, USSR RENDERED PRACTICAL SUPPORT TO PEOPLE FIGHTING FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE."

2. COMMENT: AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE RECENTLY ARRIVED SOLODNIKOV IS UNUSUAL AMONG SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN AFRICA. ATTRACTIVE PERSONALITY, FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND HIGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON AFRICA HE BID FAIR TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN LUSAKA. HOWEVER, THE SPEECH QUOTED ABOVE WILL NOT PLEASE THE ZAMBIANS. ON THE CONTRARY IT IS LIKELY TO IRRITATE KAUNDA AND COULD SERIOUSLY LIMIT SOLODOVNIKOV'S EFFECTIVENESS IN ZAMBIA DURING HIS TENURE HERE. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A TACTICAL MISTAKE TO TAKE EXCEPTION PUBLICLY WITH SOLODOVNIKOV'S COMMENTS AND CAST THE DISPUTE AS ONE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND U.K. ON ONE HAND AND THE SOVIETS ON THE OTHER. THIS APPROACH WOULD IRRITATE THE ZAMBIANS AND LET THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR OFF THE HOOK. RATHER WE WILL TRY TO CASTE REMARKS AS AN AFFRONT TO ZAMBIA AND TO TURN THE ARGUMENT TO ONE BETWEEN THE SOVIETS AND THE ZAMBIANS. WE ARE NOT PLANNING TO ISSUE ANY PRESS RELEASES. IF QUERIED, THE PAO WILL EXPRESS OUR SURPRISE THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR WOULD MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT IN ZAMBIA. IN OUR PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH ZAMBIANS WE WILL POINT OUT THAT THE SPEECH IS CONTRARY TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S STATEMENT THIS WEEK THAT HE WELCOMED U.S. INITIATIVES, AND SAY WE ARE PUZZLED THAT HE WOULD WANT TO CRITICIZE THE ZAMBIANS IN THIS WAY. I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH WITH MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE WHO WILL TAKE THE SAME LINE. WE WILL MAKE THESE POINTS ORALLY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND STATE HOUSE. LOW UNQUOTE
ROBINSON

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